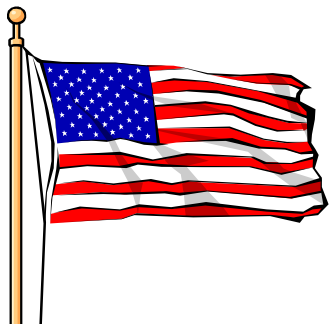


Sparks



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
December, 2002--Vol. LVI, No. 12

de KE9YK

Well it's Decembuurr!!

The New Year is quickly approaching, and as I look back I think this has been a good year for TARS. Hopefully we have started a little momentum that will carry forward with the new club officers next year. What do you think? We had a number of interesting meetings, and Bill K4LRX has already started making plans for 2003. January's meeting should be a hit, but first we have the TARS Christmas party.

The Christmas party will be on the usual meeting night, December 12, at the Sirloin Stockade on Bellemeade near Green River Road. We will start at 6:30 and plan on eating at 7:00. The cost for dinner (an all-you-can-eat buffet, with salad, dessert, and drink) is \$10, which includes tax and tip. If you want to participate in **the white elephant gift exchange**, bring a wrapped "gift" you would like to find a new home for. It doesn't need to be radio related, but will be more fun if it is something interesting.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Board members for their help this year, and everyone who gave some of their time to our hobby. Without people willing to help with Drums on the Ohio, Haunted Hayride, Field Day, the tailgate party, net control, repeaters, the newsletter, meeting presentations,

refreshments, etc., etc., etc., we would not have a club. So, Thank You.

Remember we will have a special election in January to fill the vacant Board position of Chris N9JCA, who is moving up to President. This will be for a one-year term. If you have thought about helping with TARS, this would really be a great way to get your feet wet with only a one-year commitment. Nominations will be accepted in December and again in January before the election.

Thanks for a great year, and Happy Holidays!

73 **Chris** KE9YK

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 4 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 5 TARS Board meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm
- 11 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 12 TARS Christmas Party, Sirloin Stockade, 6:30pm.
- 18 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 28 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$10.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sigecom.net).

JANUARY

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, N9JCA)
- 2 TARS Board meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, N9JCA)
- 9 TARS club meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm; this will be "amateur night;" details will appear in the January issue of **Sparks**.
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (Blanche, KA9EIV)
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Blanche, KA9EIV)
- 25 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$10.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sige.com.net).
- 29 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)

New TARS Officers

Officer and Board elections were held at the November TARS meeting, pursuant to the TARS constitution. Our leaders for 2003 are listed below. Please give them your support for the coming year. You can offer the most support by providing input for programs and activities, and by volunteering to help with these programs and activities.

President	Chris Matthews, N9JCA
Vice president	Bill Hilyerd, K4LRX
Treasurer	Susie Schmitt, KC9BLZ
Secretary	Bev Wilson, KB9PAD
Board of Directors:	
	Chris Lantaff, KE9YK
	Mark Parker, N9NYF
	Leonard Schmitt, N9QVQ

Wayne Wilzbacher, N9XXZ--SK

Wayne Allen Wilzbacher, N9XXZ, age 62, died Saturday, November 16, 2002, at Deaconess Hospital. He had been employed in the maintenance department of Welborn Hospital for 15 years before becoming disabled in 1990. He was a member of University Heights Baptist Church, where he served as a trustee. In addition to ham radio, he enjoyed motorcycles. He is survived by



his wife of 12 years, Janet (Walker) Wilzbacher, two daughters, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on November 19, 2002 at Pierre Funeral Home. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, where the Retired Veterans Memorial Club performed military rites. The family requested memorial contributions be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Ham News

Transatlantic VHF Contact a No-Go

Groups of amateurs from Germany, Canada and Ireland had no luck in their attempt to make the first two-way transatlantic VHF contact in conjunction with last month's Leonid meteor shower. The effort was, in part, a quest for the Brendan Trophies (see <http://www.irts.ie/brendan.htm> for explanation) offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. One group was on the Irish coast, while the other operated from Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA) club station VO1AA, located at Signal Hill National Historic Site in Canada. That's the spot where Marconi received the first transatlantic signal almost 101 years ago. "It's been quite an adventure," said Paul Piercy, VO1HE, who was at the Newfoundland end. "We never made the contact because the meteor shower didn't seem as big as predicted, he said."

The Brendan Trophies will go to each of the operators of the two Amateur Radio stations that first establish two-way communication between Europe and North or South America on 2 meters. The teams in Ireland and Newfoundland attempted to use the ionized meteor trails to reflect FSK441 signals across the Atlantic. A 1999 effort to complete a transatlantic 2-meter contact between Newfoundland and Scotland on CW also was unsuccessful. The group conceded that bridging the more than 1920-mile gap between Newfoundland and Ireland via meteor scatter probably would require "an unusual kind of propagation."

Fixing 40 Meters

Participants at the just-ended Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 discussed five ways to fix 40 meters, plus a sixth that would just leave things as they are.

"The five options for change all represent improvements in the amateur band, although two fall short of fulfilling the 300-kHz worldwide requirement," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. He attended the Geneva gathering in his role as International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) secretary. "All six options maintain the existing 300-kHz exclusive amateur allocation in Region 2."

The IARU is on record as supporting a 300-kHz *worldwide* amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. As things now stand, only amateurs in Region 2, which includes the US, enjoy a 300-kHz allocation. The upper two-thirds of 40 meters is occupied by broadcasters in the rest of the world, although Australia and New Zealand allow amateur operation over the entire 300 kHz on a secondary basis.

Sumner says 7-MHz realignment or harmonization "is one of the most difficult issues facing WRC-03." As he explains the situation, three major interests--amateurs, shortwave broadcasters, and users, mainly military, of the fixed and mobile services--have a stake in the outcome. "Amateurs seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II, but that now exists only in the Americas," Sumner said. "Achieving this would require the fixed and mobile services to make room for broadcasters and for the broadcasters to change their operating frequencies." The five methods for change described in the CPM Report (see below) include a variety of transition schedules to ease the impact on these other services.

1. Method A would shift Region 1 and 3 broadcasters up by 200 kHz to 7300-7550 kHz in two stages and would provide the same band for broadcasting in Region 2.

2. Method B is similar but would have amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 sharing the upper 100 kHz of their newly expanded band with fixed and mobile.

3. Method C is less desirable as it would only provide 200 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 and would perpetuate the undesirable situation at 7200-7300 kHz, where amateurs in Region 2 must contend with broadcasting interference from Regions 1 and 3.

4. Method D, proposed by Canada at the CPM, would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 up by 200 kHz, but would not expand the Region 2 broadcasting allocation. This is an effort to minimize the impact of

the realignment on fixed and mobile services in Region 2.

5. Method E, proposed by the Republic of Korea at the CPM, would provide amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 with an additional 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile (7100-7200 kHz). Like Method C, the existing unsatisfactory arrangement at 7200-7300 kHz would continue.

6. Method F, proposed by Australia at the CPM, would simply maintain the status quo. Proponents of Method F are concerned about the impact of any realignment on military and other national security communications capabilities.

Sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the CPM drew more than 1000 participants to Geneva during the last two weeks of November. Delegates represented administrations, telecommunications companies and organizations throughout the world.

Over the next three months, regional telecommunications organizations and groups (CEPT, CI TEL, and Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, the African Telecommunications Union, and Iran and the Arab States) as well as individual administrations will be developing their proposals for WRC-03, which takes place in Geneva next summer. [These reports adapted from The ARRL Letter, published on-line by the American Radio Relay League.]

TARS Participation in 2002 SKYWARN Recognition Day

SKYWARN Recognition Day took place this year on December 7, 2002, from 0000 to 2400 UTC. Hams who routinely participate in SKYWARN or ARES activities operated from approximately 100 National Weather Service offices. Environment Canada also participated this year. On SKYWARN Recognition Day, participating radio amateurs try to contact as many NWS stations as they can.

Several TARS members gathered at the EVC EMA office to work the event. I saw Bill K4LRX, Chris KE9YK, and Chris N9JCA, Terry AA9MM, Willie WD9FHA, Bob N9XAW, and Adam KB9SXX. Sorry if I missed someone--I was there for less than an hour. Both the Red Cross and EMA radios were used. We had good publicity on WFIE-TV news that evening, with yours truly and Chris (YK) explaining on-camera

what we were doing and why. Later in the day, I worked a few more NWS stations from the home QTH. This wasn't really a contest, although it may have sounded like it. But the stations involved chatted for a while during each contact--something you never see during a real contest. So, those of you who like the quick action but want something more than just a automatic bogus 59 signal report, this is an event for you! It will be a regular event (this was only the fourth year, and it is growing in popularity each time).

NWS stations operated on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter, and 70 cm bands (repeaters were used where appropriate). Some NWS stations utilized the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) to make contacts. Various modes are used--some stations were on CW, others were on PSK-31, and still others used RTTY, but all NWS stations have SSB or FM Phone capability.

Any radio amateur can earn a SKYWARN Recognition Day certificate by working just one NWS station. Endorsements may be earned that are placed on the certificate by working various NWS stations in various categories.

SKYWARN Recognition Day was held on Pearl Harbor Day this year. To honor the men and women who served their country on that day and through World War II, NWS is offering a special Pearl Harbor Day endorsement on the SKYWARN Recognition Day certificate. The Pearl Harbor attack occurred on December 7, 1941, roughly between 1800 and 1900 UTC. To earn the Pearl Harbor Day endorsement, radio amateurs must work the National Weather Service office in Honolulu (KH6SW) at any time during the event, plus work any other NWS office between 1800 and 1900 UTC.

One Man's Opinion

TARS elections are over for another year, and I hope we club officers give you a good year of service. I am looking forward to the next twelve months that hopefully will include fresh, interesting ideas to promote this great hobby of ham radio. Plans for next year include an auction, club station activities, picnics, transmitter hunts, Field Day, and whatever else we can do to promote ham radio.

This is where we will need your help in making 2003 a success, and I urge everyone not to be a "clock watcher." Clock watchers are those who never seem to have the *time* to participate in group projects. (How

often have you heard that refrain?) Clock watchers assign time to their participation on a mysterious schedule known only to them, and that you discover only when you ask for their help in an on-going project. Clock watchers are always short of time because they are always on their way to spend time with someone else, or to some other meeting.

We hope in the next few months to encourage you to attend meetings, be active in club programs, and not be a clock watcher. When meeting night rolls around, plan to attend, offer some input and ideas, and participate with the rest of us (who really want to see you there!).

We need active members. Without them, we have no club. We need your input, comments, suggestions, and participation. With your help, we can keep things interesting for 2003, and by doing so we can grow, recruit new members, and project a positive image for our hobby.

Next year I hope some new faces will raise their hand and say, "Yes, I will be glad to help the club!" Share your ideas, and maybe even present a program at a meeting--let us know what you are doing in ham radio.

Come on out on meeting night, make some new friends, perhaps rekindle past friendships, be active, and keep TARS alive and well! This is, as always, One Man's Opinion.

73 **Bill** K4LRX

Member News

Welcome new members: Welcome new members Larry Green, KG4UZY and Andy Justison, KB9IJI. Welcome back old member Dan Mitchell, N9APA.

December Birthdays: 1 Brian, WB9QVR; 2 Gene, KB9LXT; 9 John, N9OL; 10 Ron, KF9RR; 12 Herb, KB9MZH and Beverly, KB9PAE; 16 Dan, N9APA; 17 Elvin, WB9VSQ; 19 Larry, KG4UZY; 26 David, W9AJR.

From Bill, K5LPS: "Our daughter in Austin TX gave birth yesterday to our first grandson, so we have been called for 'support' duty. We will leave Thursday and be gone 10 days to 2 weeks. I will check email daily so I'm still in reach."

From Norm, W9AU: Joanne said we had to go back to the Bahamas for another 10-Meter Contest DX-pedition. Since she said so, I figured we'd better go. So, watch for C6ANK in the 10-Meter Contest on December 14-15 (UTC time), both SSB and CW

Treasurer's Report

This month's request from the Treasurer: Come join us at the Holiday Party on Thursday at the Sirloin Stockade!

The 2003 membership drive is well underway. Please fill out an application (even though your information may not have changed over the last year, please fill out another application, it helps us to maintain our records) and remit your payment to TARS.

ARRL Memberships: TARS will receive \$15 for any new (or rejoining after 2 year lapse) membership to the ARRL that is processed through the club. Contact Joanne (KB9LXZ) at 963-5872 or at KB9LXZ@insightbb.com for forms and additional information.

Budget:

[Note: The budget report and minutes of meetings are not included in complimentary copies of **Sparks**.]

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the TARS Board meeting of 11/7/2002 (submitted by Norm, W9AU)

Minutes of the TARS club meeting of 11/14/2002 (submitted by Norm, W9AU)

TARS Elmers

Tom Dickerson, KA9NOO, 985-5854: General stuff

Chris Matthews, N9JCA, 867-7456: APRS, computers

Norm King, W9AU, 963-5872: RACES, antennas, contests

Mark Parker, N9NYF, 422-7586: Digital modes, computers

John Small, W9FHA, 867-7058: Antennas (no climbing), kit building, QRP, general and portable operations, contesting

Hal Wilson, WB9FNN, 867-3151: General stuff

OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT Bill Hilyerd, K4LRX

270-826-2687; k4lrx@aol.com; billh@wevv.com

TREASURER Joanne Alexandrovich, KB9LXZ

963-5872; KB9LXZ@insightbb.com

SECRETARY Norm King, W9AU

963-5872; nnjking@insightbb.com

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@aol.com); **Terry Brooks, AA9MM--401-9632**

(tbrooks@sige.com.net); **Adam Groupe, KB9SXX--**

491-1982 (kb9sxx@sige.com.net); **Jim Marsh,**

W9NJE --476-9359 (w9nje@aol.com); **Chris**

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Willie Wilson, WD9FHA--853-7296 (wd9fha@

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Sparks is published monthly as the newsletter of the

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 4521,

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